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Abstract

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The present invention relates to the discovery in eukaryotic cells, particularly mammalian cells, of a novel family of cell-cycle regulatory proteins ("CCR-proteins"). As described herein, this family of proteins includes a polypeptide having an apparent molecular weight of 16 kDa, and a polypeptide having an apparent molecular weight of approximately 15 kDa, each of which can function as an inhibitor of cell-cycle progression, and therefore ultimately of cell growth. Thus, similar to the role of p21 to the p53 checkpoint, the subject CCR-proteins may function coordinately with the cell-cycle regulatory protein, retinoblastoma (RB). Furthermore, the CCR-protein family includes a protein having an apparent molecular weight of 13.5 kDa (hereinafter "p13.5"). The presumptive role of p13.5, like p16 and p15, is in the regulation of the cell-cycle.

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